

Commissioner Michael J. Copps is absolutely correct when he says that Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is "an abuse of the public trust" and "proof positive of media consolidation run amok."

Sinclair Broadcasting uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control as much of the airwaves as Sinclair Broadcasting does, we risk just such abuses of the public trust as Sinclair Broadcasting now intends.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. We must reverse the recent trend to allow more and more control of the public airwaves in fewer and fewer hands; and we must strengthen and enforce the public service requirements of all licenseholders at renewal time.

Please take immediate steps to force Sinclair Broadcasting to reverse its stated intention, and begin to take longer-term steps to require all broadcasters to act responsibly and fairly.

Thank you.